Iran-Iraq war

322. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 227 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th May, 1985 and state:

(a) whether there has been any headway in solving the Iran-Iraq war; and

(b) if so, what role the Government of India propose to play to end the conflict?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) To the best of our knowledge there has not been much progress in the direction of a solution of the Iran-Iraq war.

(b) The Government of India are in continuous touch with the two sides and are keeping a close watch over developments. Whenever the situation warrants, we shall certainly use our good offices to help the two parties reach a settlement.

Recall of Indian Scientists etc. living in USA

323. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has given a call to the Indian scientists and technologists in U.S.A. to return to India; and

(b) if so, what is their response so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SPACE AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is too early to assess the response.

Security arrangement at Airports

324. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what precautions are being taken to impose strict security at the airports for incoming and outgoing passengers; and

(b) what security arrangements exist in the VIP rooms at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Outgoing passengers and their baggage are screened by Electronic Door Frame Metal Detector, X-Ray Baggage Metal System and Hand Held Metal Detectors. Ladder check has also been introduced at some sensitive airports. The requirement of cooling off of air cargo is being implemented strictly. It is also ensured that no unauthorised or undesirable person comes into contact with the outgoing passengers from the time they leave the terminal building till they get into the aircraft.

Arrangements are made to ensure that there is no contact between incoming and outgoing passengers.

The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to ensure effective enforcement of security arrangements at the airports within their jurisdiction. More X-Ray equipments and Explosive Sniffers (PD-4) are being obtained. All Baggage will have to be identified by passengers before it is taken into the aircraft. Air carriers have been asked to advise the travelling public not to accept baggage and parcels or any other items from non-travellers. Dogs have been trained for sniffing explosives.

(b) VIP rooms are guarded by uniformed policemen as well as staff on surveillance duties in plain clothes.